

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed November 28, 2003. Claims 1-21 were rejected. Applicant has submitted amendments for claims 1-7. Claims 1-21 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-4, 7-9, 11, 14-16, 18, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Smith, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,114,977), hereinafter "Smith." Claims 5-6, 10, 12-13, 17, and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Comer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,430,584), hereinafter "Comer." Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections in light of the following remarks.

Section 101 Rejections

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant has amended claims 1-7 such that the claims recite a "computer-implemented method." Applicant submits that claims 1-7 fall within the technological arts, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §101 rejections of claims 1-7.

Section 102(e) Rejections

Claims 1-4, 7-9, 11, 14-16, 18, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Smith. Regarding claim 1, the Office Action argued that Smith discloses the limitation "automatically switching input focus to a second field in response to the entering the mathematical operator, wherein the second field is displayed below the first field on the display screen." Applicant respectfully disagrees. The concept of input focus is discussed by the Applicant at page 39, line 16 through page 40, line 3 of the Specification:

The term *focus* is used to describe a location at which input characters will be sent in a calcsheet, e.g., which field is being edited. The field that will receive character input is said to *have the focus*, it is also referred to as the *focus field*. In one embodiment, only one field in a calcsheet may have the focus at any given time. The term *focus character* refers to the zero-based index into the focus field's string where input characters will be placed. When the focus character is the "zeroth" character in a field's string (i.e., any input character will be placed at the start of the string), then the focus character is said to be *at the start of the field*. When the focus character is the last character in a field's string (i.e., any input character will be appended to the end of the string), the focus character is said to be *at the end of the field*. The line that contains the focus field is said to have the focus, and it is also referred to as *the focus line*. The column and row that contain the focus line are also said to have the focus, and are referred to as *the focus column* and *the focus row*. In one embodiment, it is possible to change which field has the focus. The phrase *set the focus to a field* means to cause subsequent character input to be sent to a field. Setting the focus to a field is also referred to as *setting the focus to the line* that contains the field.

Applicant respectfully submits that Smith does not teach or suggest the step of automatically switching input focus from a first field to a second field in response to input of a mathematical operator. At the locations in Smith cited by the Office Action (Figs. 7 and 8, and col. 6 lines 55-61), Smith discloses a system for receiving intermediate calculation data from a keyboard and displaying that data on the monitor. Once displayed on the monitor, Smith's data may be printed or otherwise accessed via standard operating system tools. The only form of focus disclosed by Smith (e.g., at col. 6 line 33, col. 7 line 27) is application focus, i.e., the selection of which application will receive current user input. Switching application focus is a different concept from automatically switching input focus from one field to another field within a single application.

According to Applicant's claim 1, "the first field comprises an intersection of a first column and a first row." The example calculations shown in Smith's Figs. 7 and 8 do not appear to show any such intersection of a row and a column. Instead, Smith's data is displayed in a succession of lines, one above the other, as is standard on calculator

tape. Furthermore, even if Smith can be said to use fields, each mathematical operator and its subsequent operand (e.g., "+34," "-5") appear to form a single character string located in one "field." Therefore, Smith does not teach or suggest an automatic switch in input focus from one field to another field in response to input of a mathematical operator because the user of Smith's system must enter an operand to complete the "field" containing the operator.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that claims 1-4, 7-9, 11, 14-16, 18, and 21 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §102(e) rejections of claims 1-4, 7-9, 11, 14-16, 18, and 21.

Section 103(a) Rejections

Claims 5-6, 10, 12-13, 17, and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Comer. Claims 5-6, 10, 12-13, 17, and 19-20 are dependent claims which add additional limitations to independent claims 1, 8, and 15. For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to the §102(e) rejections, Applicant submits that claims 5-6, 10, 12-13, 17, and 19-20 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections of claims 5-6, 10, 12-13, 17, and 19-20.

CONCLUSION

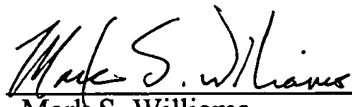
Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5676-00300/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Request for Approval of Drawing Changes
- ☒ Notice of Change of Address
- ☐ Check in the amount of \$ for fees ().
- ☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,



Mark S. Williams
Reg. No. 50,658
AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800
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